



July 3, 2025

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chairman  
Committee on Rules  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Rules  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx, Ranking Member McGovern, and Members of the Committee:

As Chair of the Waters Advocacy Coalition (WAC) I write to express strong support for H.R. 3898, the *Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today (PERMIT) Act*, on behalf of our member associations. This legislation is essential to providing clarity and certainty within the Clean Water Act (CWA) permitting process for landowners and other regulated entities across the country.

WAC represents a cross-section of the nation's construction, transportation, real estate, mining, manufacturing, forestry, agriculture, energy, wildlife conservation, and public health and safety sectors—all of which are vital to a thriving national economy and provide much-needed jobs in local communities. The CWA has long served as a cornerstone of environmental protection; however, the permitting process has become increasingly complex, inconsistent, and prone to lengthy delays. This regulatory uncertainty not only hinders critical infrastructure and environmental restoration projects but also creates uncertainty for both regulators and regulated entities. Reforming CWA permitting processes is essential to ensure timely and transparent decisions that both protect water resources and support responsible economic development.

The *PERMIT Act* would codify longstanding exclusions from the definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS), including those for ephemeral features, groundwater, prior converted cropland, and waste treatment systems. These exclusions have been consistently supported by every presidential administration—Democratic and Republican—since the early implementation of the CWA and reflect decades of bipartisan regulatory consensus. Codifying them will help establish a more predictable, durable, and transparent permitting framework under the CWA—now and into the future.

For these reasons, WAC strongly supports the *PERMIT Act*. This legislation will provide certainty for job-creating sectors across the economy, reduce permitting delays, and ensure consistent, science-based implementation of the CWA. We urge the Rules Committee and the House of Representatives to advance this important legislation without delay.

Sincerely,

Courtney Briggs, Chair  
Waters Advocacy Coalition

American Exploration & Mining Association  
American Exploration & Production Council  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers  
American Gas Association  
American Petroleum Institute  
American Public Power Association  
American Road & Transportation Builders Association  
Associated Builders and Contractors  
Leading Builders of America  
ICSC  
Independent Petroleum Association of America  
Liquid Energy Pipeline Association  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Federation of Independent Business  
National Mining Association  
National Multifamily Housing Council  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)  
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association  
The Fertilizer Institute  
Treated Wood Council  
USA Rice  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce